Mobile Banking for Rural Areas

2282. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue General Credit Cards for the villagers involved in non-agricultural activities on the pattern of Kisan Credit Cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared a plan for mobile Banking in such rural areas which lacks the regular Banking facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have prepared a plan to extend loans to the villagers throughout the year; and

(f) if so; the details thereof, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) To provide hassle free credit to their customers without any insistence on security, purpose or end-use of the credit, Reserve Bank of India has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to introduce a General Credit Card (GCC) Scheme for issuing GCC to their constituents in rural and semi-urban areas. The total credit facility under GCC for an individual should not exceed Rs. 25,000/-and women beneficiaries may be given a preferential treatment under the scheme. The circular issued by RBI on 27th December, 2005 in this regard is available on RBI website www.rbi.org.in.

(c) and (d) As per the Branch Authorisation Policy issued by RBI, Banks are encouraged to open branches in rural and under-banked areas. RBI gives weightage to the nature and scope of Banking facilities provided by Banks to common persons, particularly in rural and under-banked areas, while considering applications for opening branches.

(e) and (f) Loans are extended by the Banks to all sections of the society on an ongoing basis throughout the year and in all parts of the country, including in Andhra Pradesh, depending upon the requirement of the loan, credit policy of the Bank and in accordance with RBI guidelines.